

Attorney's Docket: 1999CH017D
Serial No.: 10/762982
Group: 1731

Amendments to the Claims

1. through 16(cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) Surface finishing agent for paper or board which is an aqueous solution (L_w) consisting ~~essentially~~ of a surface-finishing active ingredient (W), water and optionally a non-finishing formulation additive (F); wherein (W) consists of

(W₁) polyethylene glycol with an average molecular weight \overline{M}_w of > 1500 ;

(W₃) a wet strength additive;

~~and optionally at least one further additive selected from the group consisting of at least one further finishing additive and a formulation additive, and wherein the at least one further finishing additive is at least one wet strength additive (W₃) a finishing additive (W₂) and a formulation additive (W₄).~~
wherein;

(W₂) is at least one of a dye or an optical brightener, and

(W₄) is at least one agent for pH adjustment.

wherein the non finishing formulation additive (F) is selected from the group consisting of:

(F₁₁) antifoams; and

(F₁₂) agents for protecting against the damaging effect of microorganisms;
and

wherein the (W)-content is $\geq 0.1\%$ by weight referred to the weight of (L_w) and $\leq 70\%$ by weight referred to the weight of (L_w) and the (W₁) content is $\leq 50\%$ by weight referred to the weight of (L_w).

18. (Currently Amended) Surface finishing agent according to claim 17, wherein the aqueous solution (L_w) is an aqueous concentrated solution with a (W)-content in the range of 5% to 70% by weight referred to the weight of (L_w).

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19. (Cancelled)
20. (Currently Amended) Surface finishing agent according to claim ~~49~~ 18, wherein (W) consists of (W₁) and (W₃).
21. (Previously Presented) Surface finishing agent according to claim 18, wherein (W) consists of at least 30% of (W₁).
22. (Currently Amended) Surface finishing agent according to claim ~~48~~ 17, comprising (F) and wherein the (W₁) content is in the range of 0.1 to 20%.
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23. (New) Surface finishing agent according to claim 17, which is an aqueous solution (L_w) consisting essentially of (W₁), (W₃), (F) and water and optionally at least one further additive selected from the group consisting of a further finishing additive (W₂) and a formulation additive (W₄).
24. (New) Surface finishing agent according to claim 17, which is an antiyellowing agent for paper or board.
25. (New) Surface finishing agent according to claim 18, wherein (W₃) is a crosslinkable product which is reactive with aliphatic hydroxyl groups.
26. (New) Surface finishing agent according to claim 25, wherein (W₃) is selected from products of the reaction of aldehydes with nitrogen compounds containing amidic NH₂ groups or products of the reaction of epichlorohydrin with aliphatic mono- or oligoamines.